

MINUTES of the  
**OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY GROUP (OHVAG)**  
of  
ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
MEETING OF May 21, 2010  
Tonto Natural Bridge State Park

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 1:04pm. Members introduced themselves by way of roll call and Mr. Baldwin announced a quorum.

Committee Members Present: Hank Rogers  
Drew John  
Pete Pfeifer  
Robert Biegel  
David Moore

Committee Members Absent: John Savino  
Rebecca Antle

Arizona State Parks (ASP) Staff: Robert Baldwin, Grants Coordinator  
Dan Shein, Chief of Resources & Public Programs  
Section  
Annie McVay, State Trails Coordinator

Other Individuals Present: Bill Gibson, BLM State Office  
Joe Sacco, AZ Game & Fish Department  
Jeff Gursh, AZ OHV Coalition  
Ami Racki, Tonto National Forest-Mesa Ranger  
District

**B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**

Pete Pfeifer - Asked for roll call. Members and staff introduced themselves. A quorum is present.

**C. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Approval of Minutes from the January 8, 2010 Meeting.**

Bob Biegel moved to approve minutes. Drew John second. Pete Pfeifer called for the vote. Unanimous approval.

**2. Discuss and Prioritize Sticker Fund Project Selection Program Applications.**

The group gave their individual ranking for each of the projects. The rankings were listed on a chart with each of the projects listed. The projects sponsor and amount requested are listed below and the rating from each OHVAG member.

- |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Kingman \$10,790       | 8. Cave Creek Rd \$98,800  |
| 2. Globe RD \$34,384      | 9. Hassayampa FO \$17,197  |
| 3. Mohave Co. \$100,000   | 10. Hassayampa FO \$40,236 |
| 4. Mesa RD \$79,425       | 11. Hassayampa FO \$10,858 |
| 5. Lakeside RD \$92,500   | 12. Hassayampa FO \$20,177 |
| 6. Prescott NF \$60,000   | 13. Hassayampa FO \$42,861 |
| 7. Cave Creek RD \$24,380 | 14. Hassayampa FO \$32,380 |

Proj #1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
pf	5	9	11	1	12	13	6	14	10	4	8	3	2	7
bb	9	10	8	14	11	6	1	7	2	3	12	13	4	5
hr	3	8	6	9	1	5	4	11	10	12	13	14	7	2
dj	6	3	8	10	11	9	2	10	4	12	7	14	5	1
dm	2	3	11	5	12	13	6	10	8	4	7	14	9	1
js	7	6	3	5	1	9	2	11	4	8	12	14	10	13
ra	6	11	14	13	10	12	4	1	8	3	7	5	9	2
TOT38	50	61	57	58	67	25	64	46	46	66	77	46	31	

Totals include John Savino (js) & Rebecca Antle (ra) received by mail.

Amy Racki arrived.

Robert Baldwin – The top 9 rated projects total \$281,653. Project 10 is \$100,000 for a total of \$381,653. We set out to award up to \$309,000. However, in Item C7 we are going to ask the Board to make \$916,300 available for projects. So, there is plenty of money available to fund all of these projects. How many of these projects do you want to fund?

Drew John - All of them. I want to get the money out.

David Moore - I don't agree with giving BLM money for a razor. They have plenty of other funding sources.

Drew John - I think \$17k is too much for the small razor. Okay, I see it does have additional equipment on it.

Jeff Gursh - It does have an extended warranty.

Joe Sacco - (Later in the meeting) You need to remember that BLM is making that razor for law enforcement use. Lights and a radio add considerably to the cost. The radio is about \$3k, lights and siren another \$2k.

Jeff Gursh - It's a 50" two-seater with double batteries.

David Moore - I don't think they shopped around much and this is wasteful spending.

Robert Baldwin - You don't have to recommend funding for all of these projects. We can issue another solicitation for different projects. We were looking for high dollar projects in high use areas with user support that could be completed within one year. Do all of these projects meet those requirements? How many are high dollar? We will discuss the funding recommendation in Item C3.

### **3. Consider Funding the Lakeside RD Project – Maverick OHV Trail Using OHV Recreation Funds to Match Recreational Trails Program Funds.**

Robert Baldwin - Item C3 deals with the Lakeside RD project. We can fund this project with RTP motorized portion fund according to the staff recommendation. We have a lot of unexpended money that can only be used by certain projects and this is one of them. Do you have any questions about Item

Pete Pfeifer - Is there a motion to approve Item C3?

Drew John - Read motion.

Hank Rogers - Second.

Pete Pfeifer - Call for the vote. Unanimous.

David Moore - I did have some question on this project. I don't agree with the goal of this project to smooth out all the rocks in northeast Arizona. That's the reason we have trail, to offer a challenge and experience natural terrain. I agree completely with maintaining sensitive areas and keeping people on the trail, but I do not agree with gravelling in and smoothing out rough areas of the trail that are otherwise passable.

Drew John - I see where you're coming from and agree.

Hank Rogers - Let me shed some light on this. I have ridden that trail and that malapais rock eats your tire.

David Moore - We have plenty of road around Arizona that are smooth and we need places that are challenging and separate the use. We can't make every single trail just a ride in the park.

Hank Rogers - Here's what you have up there. You have a club of what we call the "grey wave". They don't want a challenge. They want a ride where they can enjoy the flowers and the outdoors.

Robert Baldwin - Another viewpoint on this project is that it is a 47-mile cross-district trail. If parts of it are undesirable or unusable, that negates the whole purpose of the trail. They can create more challenging loops off of the trail, but the purpose of this trail is to allow long distance travel through natural environment.

Drew John - One comment in the application indicated that the trail was not getting use because of the rough areas.

Robert Baldwin - The recommendation allows up to \$20k. By the time the original grants are closed out, there should be some additional match that we can apply to this project which will reduce the amount of sticker fund they will need.

### **3. Consider Funding the High Priority Sticker Fund Project Selection Program Applications.**

Bob Biegel - Read the staff recommendation including all 14 submitted projects.

Hank Rogers - Second

Pete Pfeifer - Call for vote. Discussion?.

Drew John - BLM has done a good job of getting things done, not only on their land, but on the forest service land. They have helped stretch the grant money. They have applied when no one else did.

Hank Rogers - BLM has been a lot more friendly to OHV.

Pete Pfeifer - Call for vote. Unanimous.

Jeff Gursh - Asked for feedback on why the Cave Creek RD project north of Bartlett Lake Road was rated so low (11th). It was the highest priority of all the users group

recommendations. A jeep trail is available to all motorized users including UTV's, ATV's, and dirt bikes. So it would get the most use.

Drew John and Hank Rogers responded that they were trying to spread the money out a little and the Cave Creek RD project south of Bartlett Lake Road was not as expensive.

David Moore agreed that it is a highly used trail and he rated it accordingly.

Drew John commented that Parks Board member Bill Scalzo came up to him after the Board meeting on Wednesday (5/19) and said projects need to get on the ground as soon as possible. He is getting questions from people asking why they should pay for the stickers when nothing is getting done. John commented that he was interested in getting more projects completed than high dollar ones.

Hank Rogers - I agree and we need to see that the money gets spread around the state, too. Also, we as a group need to make sure the press is notified when projects are completed, like the ribbon cutting for the Maverick Trail in June.

Robert Baldwin - The Maverick Trail was built with RTP money.

Hank Rogers - As long as the users see something is being done, they won't care where the money comes from.

Drew John - Representative Weiers told me he wants to attend. I will be sure he knows this is not sticker money.

## **5. Discussion to Determine Priority Uses for Project Funds.**

The Group began this discussion with an overview of the conditions that currently exist on Forest Service (FS) land. Because the Travel Management Rule designations have not been completed, the FS is reluctant to put any effort into developing trails. In fact, nothing can be done on trails (other than FS roads) unless they are identified in the last Recreational Access Trails Maintenance (RATM) document. Even once the findings are announced, lawsuits from conservation groups could tie up progress for even a longer period. Jeff Gursh brought up the issue of using the sticker fund money for NEPA and gave an example of a project on the Prescott NF that could go forward with money to do NEPA on the adjacent trailheads.

Robert Baldwin - The purpose of this discussion is for OHVAG to determine under what parameters the funds can be used.

Drew John - Can we partially fund a grant if we don't have enough money to fund the entire project?

Robert Baldwin - You can award them a specific amount to accomplish specific work. But, does that work create a useable project without the rest of the proposed work getting done?

Drew John - So if they have large projects we should fund them in phases.

Robert Baldwin - Phases only work if each phase creates a usable product that can stand alone. If you build phase one knowing that it will only work when phase two or three are completed, there is no guarantee those phases will ever get going.

David Moore - If phase one is just the studies or engineering and then phase two never comes about, you've wasted a lot of money.

Robert Baldwin - Jeff is asking if he presents a project that includes the cost of NEPA and trail development and the NEPA work must be completed before any construction can start, would that be acceptable?

Drew John - My scenario is that if we get a good project that includes NEPA that wants \$200k and we only have \$125k left. Do we go ahead and just award the money needed for the NEPA?

Robert Baldwin - That's an issue you can discuss when the time comes. Right now you need to decide what projects you want to see applications for. The legislation allows and you have agreed that projects can ask for funds for NEPA.

Hank Rogers - I have a grant to develop a restroom but the Forest Service says they can't afford to keep it maintained. Do we want to provide money for ongoing maintenance?

David Moore - I also want to know if we can choose what portions of a proposal we want to fund?

Pete Pfeifer - I don't want to see multi-phase projects. I want to be able to say "here's what your sticker money bought!" I want to find out from ADOT who is buying the stickers. If people in certain areas, like Havasu, aren't buying the stickers, we need to know.

David Moore - I would like to see a small pamphlet handed out to people who purchase a sticker that list the locations of projects that have been completed.

John Sacco - I am getting a mailing list from MVD with the names and addresses of everyone who has purchased a sticker. It's going to cost about \$7k.

Robert Baldwin - Promotion of the sticker and whole statewide program needs to improve. We also discussed that at our last Ambassador's planning meeting. We are going to work through our agency PIO's to get more "good OHV" publicity out. Right now we will use our State Parks website to announce the projects that are being awarded. We will include where the project is located and what will be developed.

Drew John - Can staff provide me with the information on the awarded projects. I know that I can get that into my local paper.

Robert Baldwin - Yes, after the Parks Board meeting I will have our PIO issue a press release and see that you are all copied on it. We will also make the information available on our website.

Hank Rogers - I like the idea of a small pamphlet with this information that we can put in people's hands at the Maverick Trail dedication and our jamboree and places like that. Once people see this money going into projects the sticker purchases will increase. Back to my question, are you willing to fund daily maintenance of a facility like a restroom?

Drew John - The legislation permits agreements.

Jeff Gursh - You could establish ongoing agreements to provide trail maintenance. That's a good way to tie up the money for long term.

Robert Baldwin - How long would that have to last? And when you quit paying them, does the facility get neglected?

Drew John - Even if you provide the funds, they have to have personnel that can do the work.

Robert Baldwin - How do you account for the use of the funds? Do you monitor potty check logs and ask for toilet paper receipts for five years? I wouldn't want to go down that road now. Maybe when we have \$4m a year to hand out, we can consider those things.

Drew John - Are we talking about the next granting cycle for this or the granting cycle for the whole?

Robert Baldwin - We want to solicit projects that will be funded with the monies available through June 2011. What kind of projects do you want to fund?

David Moore - High use areas, user demand.

Robert Baldwin - How do you identify a "high use area"? What quantifies it?

Drew John - Letters from the clubs/users should be required.

Hank Rogers - How about if we approach organizations like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and ask them for recommendation on how we could use the money in their high use areas?

David Moore asked Joe Sacco if Game & Fish had projects or areas where they could use these funds? Sacco responded that they constantly deal with access issues in the interest of their hunters.

Robert Baldwin - The only way projects get initiated is through pressure from interested parties. The users have to go to the agencies and say we want a project done, then agree to provide assistance and support.

David Moore - I have advised the foundation of the work that OHVAG does and the availability of funds. They have not looked at it for specific projects and I would be concerned that we don't get away from the identified purposes for the fund. I prefer that the project benefits general public use.

Jeff Gursh - When I am considering a project, I go to John Kolesar to ask if there is some specific access within my project area that he wants me to consider. Sportsmen groups need to work with the agencies and let them know what access is important to them. They can encourage the agencies to apply for these funds on their behalf.

The group felt it will be important to get the word about these grants out to sportsmen's organizations and let them know it can be used to help improve their road that provide access to hunting.

Bob Biegel - With all of this money available, why haven't we investigated purchasing land or leases to create an OHV park? We can make a recommendation to the Parks Board that we buy say 200 acres of land for \$200k and then spend another \$100k and make an OHV park?

Robert Baldwin - When you make your yearly report to the Parks Board you could recommend that certain state parks be considered for improvements that will support OHV use. We have identified OHV interest in Alamo Lake, Lyman Lake, and Lost Dutchman parks already.

Hank Rogers - I will let you know that I have been in discussions with State Parks about opening Lyman Lake State Park for OHV recreation. We are considering a trail that would connect Springerville with St. Johns through the park and adding staging facilities in the park. Lyman Lake needs to start thinking out of the box. What has been going on down there is not working. They are losing money every year. Adding OHV would



help make the place at least a break-even operation. We could appropriate some of these funds to operate the park.

Drew John - We can build staging areas on the park and have the trails lead out of the park to other riding areas. I don't think we need to change the criteria that much. We still need trail designation, signing, and mapping.

Robert Baldwin - Item C5 shows the State Trails Plan recommendations and the allowable activities under the legislation.

Hank Rogers to Joe Sacco - What would be the possibility of getting an half hour segment on the Game & Fish TV show to talk about the projects and where the money is going?

Joe Sacco - A half hour would not be possible because of the way the show is segmented. But we could certainly get something on there in one of the segments. Studies show that people's attention span doesn't last more four or five minutes. Once we get the segment cut, we can put it on the web for future viewing.

Hank Rogers - I think that would be money well spent.

Joe Sacco - We wouldn't need the sticker fund money to do that. We have our share of the fund that we can use.

Hank Rogers - Saffel Canyon trail is shut down right now while they are making improvements. You could come up and film the work being done to install bridges.

Jeff Gursh - I am asking that you allow me to apply for enough money to include the NEPA and some engineering along with the trail construction. A \$100k project would need \$150k to include those things. Right now our coalition has a trail dozer to build trails. We charge \$1500 to \$2000 per mile to build trails. Any of the professional trailbuilding group would charge \$3.50 a foot. That's \$18k per mile. No agency can afford that.

Bob Biegel - We don't have a limit. We made the recommendation for these projects based on only having \$309k. Now we can set whatever limits we want.

Jeff Gursh - I just want you to realize that if you limit projects to \$100k and that project will need some NEPA, \$100k isn't going to be enough. I would be asking for money just for a study. The study would be tied to a project that is being funded by the same grant. I've got a whole list of projects on the Prescott NF from 1998 to 2005 that are NEPA ready. They had money to do the studies, but no money to build the projects.

Robert Baldwin - The last time we discussed NEPA, we agreed that the only way we will fund it is if it is done privately, contracted out.

Hank Rogers - I remember the discussion, but don't remember making that decision. So you're saying we make the Forest Service contract it out?

Robert Baldwin – Yes, to businesses on their approved vendor lists, so the work gets done in a timely manner.

Hank Rogers - I think we need a letter from the land manager included with the application that states they support the project and will do everything they can to get it completed.

Jeff Gursh - New staging areas and dust treatment for existing areas in the PM10 management area. The people are going to notice the signs, gates, kiosks, parking boundaries.

Robert Baldwin - These are all things in Maricopa County. Why aren't we getting projects from other areas, like Tucson?

David Moore - Once people see these projects moving forward and that we have money to spend, we will get more applications. How often are we going to give out grants?

Robert Baldwin - When we first announced this program, the information says projects can be submitted at any time and will be reviewed for funding each time OHVAG meets. This is all on the State Parks website. How are we going to get this news out?

Hank Rogers - We'll do the pamphlet and get the deal on the Game & Fish show.

Robert Baldwin - It will take six months to get something on the Game & Fish show. Joe Sacco concurs.

Jeff Gursh - Maybe you could have this group meet with the land managers and tell them about the program and how easy it is to complete the application form.

Hank Rogers - Let's schedule these meeting in the Forest Service facilities and invite the hosting District Ranger to meet with us. We'll move the meeting from one forest to the next until we've visited them all. Having our meeting in the basement of the State Parks building doesn't get us any exposure. We need to be out where we can be seen. Is money to administrate these grants available?

David Moore - You're allowing them to use 10% of the project amount for engineering costs, but it doesn't say administration.

Robert Baldwin - The legislation doesn't address administrative fees. We're not asking for match to build the project. Where is the ownership? All we're asking them to do is give us an occasional report on the progress of the project and track their expenditures.

Amy Racki - You can use the existing interagency agreements to get a lot of work done statewide. If you get an agency like BLM to make the bulk purchase (like with signs), each forest can hire seasonal or temp worker to do the installation. Also, creating a pool of motorized trail maintenance crews, like State Parks has done with the non-motorized trail crews, makes it easy to get work done without transferring money. Although that could take some time to get organized.

Hank Rogers - Maybe we need some professional help in getting our word out. We could hire a public relations firm to tell us what we need to do. If we spent \$10k on that, I think it would be money well spent. We would get that money back quickly in the added stickers that would be sold.

David Moore - You mean a campaign to increase sticker compliance?

Hank Rogers - No, I'm talking about getting the word out about the things Jeff is doing and where there sticker money is going.

David Moore - Would you be advertising for people to try to apply for grants?

Hank Rogers - No, this is strictly to promote where their \$25 is being spent.

Pete Pfeifer - Doesn't that fall under education and doesn't Game & Fish have some obligation towards that?

Joe Sacco - We have been doing the outreach, but with limited resources it is not reaching everybody. Your point about touting our accomplishments is well taken. Honestly, at this point we don't have anything. We have had to focus on keeping people on the trails and sticker awareness. Certainly, once these projects are on the ground we can run with that. I think Dave had a great idea with getting the flyers created. Once we get the list from MVD we can put that flyer in our mailing. I think you need to focus on shovel ready projects, high priority and making sure they meet the requirements that you are laying out.

Robert Baldwin - Remember, we have had an OHV program for 20 years and have completed many projects. In the last five years Amy Racki and Troy Waskey did a bang up job of getting money spent when we had it and developing the Ambassador program. We're not just coming out of the closet with this program. We have not done a good job of promoting our accomplishments.

Bob Biegel - I think we should create a sign that says "This project has been sponsored by..." and we should post them at every project we have funded.

Robert Baldwin - We used to provide signs for grant projects when they were funded with the OHV fund, but maybe now we need one that promotes the STATEWIDE OHV PROGRAM whether the project is funded with sticker money, OHV fund, or RTP.

Drew John - I think you should require the sponsor to put up the sign.

Hank Rogers - I agree.

Robert Baldwin - Back to the point. What requirements do you want me to include in the next project solicitation?

Drew John - Shovel ready - completed within one year of funding.

Bob Biegel - Must display source of funding signage. How much are they?

Robert Baldwin - I think we need to broaden the scope of our signs to promote the STATEWIDE OHV PROGRAM administered by State Parks.

Hank Rogers - We need a new logo.

Robert Baldwin - We said high use area identified by user support.

Bob Biegel - I think we can allow up to \$100k plus NEPA.

Hank Rogers - You're going to encourage NEPA studies that way and they probably won't get the project done in one year.

Robert Baldwin - Shovel ready would mean that the NEPA is done.

Drew John - What if somebody applied for a promotional grant to market the OHV sticker and to market this program? How about if I applied for \$50k to do this.

Robert Baldwin - Would it fall under the high priority need identified in the trails plan or what is allowed under the legislation.

Hank Rogers - We need a brand, a logo. And that logo needs to go on our shirts and we need to be wearing the shirts. And that logo needs to go on all the signs along with the State Parks logo.

Pete Pfiefer - Let's set up a subcommittee to develop a logo. Would you guys, Hank and David, like to make up that subcommittee?

Jeff Gursh - This is a poster I developed to use at dealers to let people know what their sticker money can be used for. Something like this would go a long way to improve the sticker image.

Hank Rogers - Shovel ready, high priority, improve support facilities in high use areas. We need to contact hunting groups about improvements in their access areas.

David Moore - And other recreation areas. Even improvements on remote two-track roads would be useful.

Hank Rogers - Mitigation is always a good thing.

Bob Biegel - Should we put a dollar limit on mitigation?

Hank Rogers - We need a limit so we can get as many projects going as possible. If someone has a really good project, but might exceed the limit, give them some consideration. How about \$20k minimum?

Jeff Gursh - A small restroom is going to cost about \$40k.

David Moore - And those are the thing everyone sees and uses. We could set the minimum based on the cost of putting in the type of improvements we are looking for.

Dan Shein - At the bottom of page 5 the legislation talks about giving priority to projects that provide mitigation and serve a large number of purposes. So include in the criteria consideration for multi-purpose projects. Because the report to the legislature due Sept 2011, it will be important to key into the legislation in selecting projects.

## **6. Discussion Concerning Expansion of OHV Ambassador Program.**

Robert Baldwin - The program has been very successful since 2006. There has been 80+ ambassador trained and about 60+ still active in the program. They are currently monitoring the Boulders and Table Mesa areas primarily. The program was started by Amy Racki and Troy Waskey. Troy left in 2008 and BLM stepped up and provided Chris Gammage to do the hands-on work with the Ambassadors. We have been funding Chris' position at BLM and also a part-time person, Marge Dwyer. She has been primary in getting the dealer education program up and running. This is an effort to educate dealers about OHV responsibility, the importance of having a "sticker", and providing them with materials to give to customers. The program has been limited to the Phoenix metro area, and now needs to be expanded statewide. Expansion requires a coordinator that will take on the responsibility of getting thing done. We know that the land managers do not have the staff time to do what Chris Gammage does. What we would like to see is an organized user group that would step forward and provide the

leadership to get things done. In order to pass money to a group like this, we need to establish a grant program where they can compete against other interested groups under established criteria and be awarded a grant.

Bob Biegel - Volunteer must have the support of an agency person to operate effectively. They are the ones who provide the law enforcement contact. Volunteers can't just approach a land manager and say "Hey, we'd like to come out on your land this weekend and provide some peer monitoring." The volunteers will need an agreement with the land manager.

Drew John - Can the grant include a funds to pay a staff member from an agency?

Robert Baldwin - Item C6 in the packet lines out the process for establishing satellite units. The volunteer group would be required to have an agreement in place with the host agency to provide a contact for scheduling events and getting access to the land and law enforcement if needed.

David Moore - How do you make all that happen? How do you find a group with the time and resources to do something like this?

Robert Baldwin - If a group or land manager is interested in having an ambassador unit and getting the support material, they will need to meet the requirements of the grant process. Hank, would someone in your group be able to meet these requirements?

Hank Rogers - NO. In the rural areas, people are just trying to survive. We don't have the retired people who might have time to do something like this. The Show Low group has more retired members. Guys like John Savino have time to do this.

Amy Racki - How about if the grant included a stipend like \$100 to coordinate each event?

Hank Rogers - That might help. People get volunteered to death. You will need to find a leader with the time and make it worthwhile for him. Otherwise, it becomes a "job" with no pay.

Drew John - What do they actually get with the grant? What can the money be used for?

Robert Baldwin - On page 8 in the packet the grant provides materials and some cash, which could be used for labor costs.

Hank Rogers - The biggest problem you're going to have is finding people with time in the Forest Service. We have been begging them to let us go out with them and provide our club shirts and hats to people we find who are riding responsibly.

John Sacco - Since insurance seems to be a big issue with the Forest Service, would it produce a win-win situation if the grant could provide insurance for the organization, not only during Ambassador event, but for their other events also. Also, we could let the groups put their own (tasteful) logo in a specific spot on the Ambassador jerseys. This program will not be successful if we have to count on agency people to do the work. Providing something worthwhile for the sponsor club in return for a successful Ambassador program is what we are trying to achieve.

Hank Rogers - We have a lot of turnover. People get tired and leave. A lot of my new members are not from the local area. I couldn't guarantee any participants. If I had the time to get involved, I could get some people, but I don't have the time. My suggestion would be to look to John Savino's group because they have more retired people and they have indicated an interest in having the program in Show Low.

Drew John - Sounds like you need to get the process out and see who's interested. There might be someone in Graham County who would do this.

David Moore - I don't think it will work to have a group try to cover too big an area. They need to select a distinct area they can handle.

Bob Biegel - A suggestion is to have the current Ambassadors go to some of these remote areas and put on an event. Also they could meet with the user groups and land managers and discuss the program and recruit interested parties.

Hank Rogers - Another suggestion that might get more response in our area would be to expand the role into the search and rescue area. I would be in a group of people that would be more interested in this program if it involved search and rescue work.

Drew John - The insurance issue comes into play again. If that hurdle could be jumped, it might stimulate more interest.

Bob Biegel - Has anyone approached other forest districts to see if they have interest in the program?

Drew John - I know the Graham County search and rescue members are encouraged to have an ATV and the radio training ambassadors get is the same as what they use.

Amy Racki - Search and rescue units have their own training through the sheriff's office.

Robert Baldwin - In a rural area a sheriff may approach the ambassador and say we know you have a lot of the training we provide our search and rescue members and we'd like to offer some addition training to you so that we can use you in search operation when needed. The program is not operating in the Phoenix area with any

intentions of being involved with the sheriff's search and rescue efforts. They do provide on-site presence and if the land manager had a lost person, the ambassadors could certainly provide an organized search effort by riding trails and communicating with their radios. We are trying to develop a process that will attract organized (501C3) clubs who can establish an agreement with the local land manager to provide the ambassador services on their land.

David Moore - Does this have to be an ongoing, year round thing? If we were working with the Elk Foundation they might want to show presence during the 8 days of elk season.

Robert Baldwin - The program does involve extensive training and the purchase of equipment that can sit in the garage 350 days a year. The Ambassadors don't have to go out every weekend. High use weekends and weather seasonal appearances are preferred. There are a variety of things they can do. They could go to "Boys & Girls Club" and provide training and information. They can work with the dealers to see that they have the information and material they need to share with their customers. These things can be done in addition to the trailhead greetings and trail patrols.

Drew John - So how do you want to get the information out? Send it out to different groups.

Bob Biegel - First I'll develop the grant program criteria and put it in a manual and announce that the grants are available. This would go to the land managers and all clubs listed on State Parks website. We have most of the big club's information.

## **7. Consider Recommendations for OHV Recreation Fund Appropriations in FY2011.**

Robert Baldwin - This item will address the use of OHV Recreation Fund monies that are available at the end of 2010 and will accumulate in 2011. See attachment C.

Drew John - Do we have the potential total if everyone bought the sticker?

Joe Sacco - The total for the two portions (gas tax & stickers) should be close to \$7m. Sticker portion is about \$4m.

Robert Baldwin - Today we awarded about \$650k to these projects. We want to identify an amount that will be available for the types of projects we identified earlier.

Drew John - So you want us to come up with an amount and decide when to give it out?

Robert Baldwin - Right now I am asking you to approve a figure that we can announce as available when we start to solicit more projects.



Robert Biegel - I understood our role was to identify the types of projects we want to spend the money on and I think we accomplished that earlier.

Staff went through Attachment E line by line and identified the amounts.

Jeff Gursh - So is the legislature taking the money out of the gas tax?

Robert Baldwin - There is one fund. So if you want to say the portion they are taking is the gas tax portion, you can say that.

Drew John - Are the projects we just funded coming out of the \$1.8m available at the end of this year?

Robert Baldwin – Yes.

Pete Pfeifer - The \$2.5m projection is based on receiving the same amounts in gas tax and sticker revenues in 2011.

Robert Baldwin - Correct. That is the amount that will be available for projects through June of 2011, barring future cuts by the legislature.

Hank Rogers - How about if the Parks Board wants to take some of this money to operate the parks?

Robert Baldwin - They cannot use this money without some sort of legislative action.

Dan Shein - All of State Parks funds were affected by the spending reduction. A certain percentage was taken out by the legislature.

Drew John - Are you asking what we want to do with the remaining \$1.2m and next year's \$1.3?

Robert Baldwin - Staff is asking you to ask the Parks Board to set aside (in the budget for 2011) \$916,300 for high priority OHV projects selected in state fiscal years 2010 and 2011. This would be the line item amount in the 2011 budget available for OHV projects. So, \$916,300 less the \$66,300 reduction would leave \$850,000 of which we just awarded approximately \$600k, leaving \$250k for other projects yet to be solicited.

Bob Biegel - I might be confused, but are you saying that all we have available today in the Sticker Fund is \$800k.

Robert Baldwin - Yes, that is projected revenue through June of this year.

Robert Biegel - So that is all we can count on because the legislature may come back and take the gas tax money.

Robert Baldwin - Once again, it's all one fund. When the legislature takes money from the OHV Recreation Fund, it includes contributions from both sources. Obviously, if they take more than was contributed by the gas tax portion, then they are taking money from the sticker portion. It is not likely the legislature will convene before the end of this year. That is why we are advancing 80% of these project awards, so the money is not in our accounts.

Robert Baldwin - Asking for only \$916,300 at this time is a conservation approach that would leave over \$1m in the account as reserve. If the Parks Board only wants to retain a reserve of \$500k, then that other \$500k would become available for projects.

Drew John - Why can't we ask for the full amount available now for projects?

Robert Baldwin - If you want to put forward a recommendation that the Parks Board make that full amount available, you can do that. It would be the decision of the Parks Board.

Drew John - But they would probably want to keep some for reserve. So how about if we ask for all but \$500k?

Dan Shein - Staff will take your recommendation and the staff recommendation both to the Board. The reserve is a margin for operation.

Robert Baldwin - The money cannot be spent for park operations, but it needs to be in the account so if it is needed, it would have to be replaced. Through 2011 the \$2.5m is what is available for OHV projects. We are asking for the \$916,300 for projects, \$110k for the BLM ambassador partnership, and another \$75k for ambassador grants. That totals \$1,101,300.

Drew John - I think it is advisable to ask for more than we think we will get.

Bob Biegel - I think as a group with all of our interest at heart, we should ask for all of our money for OHV use. I am making that motion right now.

Hank Rogers - I think we should be more aggressive. I don't have a problem at all asking for all of it. What do we have to lose? I'll second Bob's motion.

Pete Pfeifer - Call for the vote - unanimous.

Hank Rogers - So why are we giving this money to BLM to operate the program when State Parks could keep it and hire a person to run the program?

Robert Baldwin - State Parks has eliminated the OHV positions and, therefore, cannot hire anyone to fill them. And we are happy with the way Chris Gammage and Marge Dwyer are handling the program.

Bob Biegel - Yes, Chris and Marge are doing a good job.

Hank Rogers - Moved to approve the allocation of \$110k to BLM to administer the Ambassador program and \$75k to be offered through grants to expand the Ambassador program.

Bob Biegel – Second.

Pete Pfeifer - Call for vote - unanimous

Robert Baldwin - Called attention to the other staff recommendations in item C7 regarding the direction of staff efforts pursuing OHV activity in state parks, development of a OHV maintenance teams, and educational opportunities.

Drew John - Moved to approve the staff recommendations.

Hank Rogers - Second

Pete Pfeifer - Call for the vote - unanimous.

Bob Biegel - I further move to recommend that State Parks look into developing and operating an OHV park by either acquiring a new park or converting one of the parks that is being closed to OHV use.

Hank Rogers - Second

Pete Pfeifer - Call for the vote - unanimous (Motion later withdrawn by unanimous vote of group.)

Dan Shein - I'd like to point out that in some cases State Parks does not own the property in fee simple. For instance at Oracle, one of the parks that is currently closed, we have a conservation easement on the property that might preclude OHV activities.

Hank Rogers - We need to consider taking this recommendation back. Is the staff recommendation to develop OHV activities on state parks a directive from higher up or did you put this in?

Robert Baldwin - We have discussed opportunities in the past and I am just keeping this consideration open and letting the Parks Board know that we are serious about seeing something done.

**8. Consider Recommendations for Use of Federal Recreational Trails Program Motorized Portion Funds Apportioned Through FFY 2010.**

Hank Rogers - How much do we have available there?

Robert Baldwin - \$997K

Hank Rogers - Is this money that has to be given out by March?

Robert Baldwin - We have not announced that this money is available for projects. This recommendation is to use the same project selection process to identify projects to be funded with the OHV fund money (\$25k to \$100k with no match) and the RTP fund money (\$100k to \$280k with 10% match).

Jeff Gursh - Would there be a one or two-year turnaround time for the RTP money?

Robert Baldwin - The motion doesn't specify, but larger projects would get more time to complete. The current grant projects have a three-year project period. I would like to clarify the difference between grants and the project selection process. Grants are offered through a competitive process that is open to federal, state, and local agencies and non-profit organizations, i.e. MotoTrax. The project selection process does not have the strictly rated criteria and the money is passed through existing intergovernmental agreements. This is a quick and easy process. These agreements are not available to non-profit groups, only governmental agencies.

Hank Rogers - Is administrative money available through the RTP grants?

Annie McVay - Staff administrative time is not eligible.

Dan Shein - We are trying to move the money out the door more expeditiously. We want projects to get started soon after they are conceived, not waiting for a specific grant cycle. This also minimizes the burden on the one staff person we have. Not having to set up the formal administrative review process.

Hank Rogers - Are you able to advance 80% on the RTP money?

Robert Baldwin - No. This recommendation is to offer RTP projects through the project selection process (on a regular basis/quarterly) and to consider a reasonable term of use. For grant projects we require 25 years. The OHV small projects did not specify a term of use and under this first round of the project selection process, we did not specify a term of use. I am asking for your recommendation as to what is reasonable to expect of a project sponsor when you give them \$250k. There are alternatives to keeping the project available. Conversion is a process where the sponsor says the project/activity is no longer appropriate at the current location and we would like to offer equivalent

facilities at a different location. Obsolescence occurs when the facility or activity is no longer feasible. For instance, ATV use becomes illegal, so there is no need for the facility. Natural disaster destroys the facility and it is not cost effective to replace it. Otherwise, under normal conditions the sponsor must maintain the facility and keep it available for public use.

Drew John - Twenty-five years is a long time, a lot can happen.

David Moore - OHV use as a popular form of recreation has only been in existence barely 25 years.

Robert Baldwin - It is important when we announce that funds are available for projects that a condition of accepting those funds is a specific term of public use. I am asking you to tell me what you think is appropriate to expect based on the amount of money spent on a project.

Jeff Gursh - My understanding is that when an area has improvements provided by grant money, it is the area that is to remain available for use, not the specific improvement. It is not reasonable to expect a restroom to last twenty-five years. If the trails are gone, do they still have to maintain the restroom?

Robert Baldwin - The area would still have to allow some type of recreation activity to make the restroom useful to the public. Again under obsolescence that recreation activity may change.

Jeff Gursh - For instance, BLM did not want to apply to install \$4k kiosks if they were going to have to maintain them for 25 years.

Drew John - It sounds like the answer is to affix a term based on the dollar amount of the grant. Do we want the Parks Board to make that decision or is Bob going to be stuck with making the decision?

Robert Baldwin - We want to be able to state going in that if you want to apply for a grant for \$xx, we will expect you to maintain it for this long. For instance, grant for \$50k require 5 years, grants for \$100k require 10 years, etc. But what that might do is cause a sponsor who wants \$250k in improvements to break the project down into smaller increments so that none of the improvements have to be maintained for 25 years.

Drew John - Are project sponsors going to want to apply for a \$25k grant if they have to maintain it for 25 years?

Hank Rogers - I don't remember and project requests for less than \$100k over the last few years.

Drew John - If the 25-year requirement hasn't been causing a problem, then why change it?

Hank Rogers - Moved staff recommendation with term of use for 25 years.

David Moore – Second.

Pete Pfeifer - Call for vote - Drew John only nay

## **9. Discussion on OHVAG Goals.**

Pete Pfeifer - In regard to the calendar, I have gotten dates from David and Hank.

Jeff Gursh - I would be more than happy to send you the information we have on the Coalition website. Thank you for the work you do and allowing me to come to this meeting.

Pete Pfeifer - Hank and David will provide examples for an OHVAG logo.

David Moore - Another item on this list was to come out with more press releases. It is inexpensive to do and we should take advantage of it.

Drew John - Does State Parks have lists of contacts that releases could be sent to?

Hank Rogers - I think that once the Parks Board approves these projects we should get the list out to all areas of the state. I will see that it gets into our local paper.

Robert Baldwin - I will see that Ellen Bilbrey has the information on the projects that the Parks Board approves and gets it out. Showing that "sticker funds" are being spent will help dispel the rumors about the fund being swept.

## **D. REPORTS**

### **1. Chair's Report** - on Arizona Department of Health Services/Game and Fish ATV/OHV Stake Holders Meeting held in Tucson, 1/15/10

Pete Pfeifer commented on his report regarding the OHV task force.

### **2. Sub-Committee Reports – NONE.**

### **3. Staff Reports**

a) **Update on Arizona State Parks Board actions** – Robert Baldwin reported that the Parks Board approved the recommendation to change the sponsor for the Saffel OHV Trail Renovations project from the Town of Eagar to the Economic Development for Apache County Corporation.

b) **Update on status of BLM access guides** – Bill Gibson, BLM Access Guides (presented earlier in the meeting)

Bill provided copies of all the maps that are waiting final production. The maps are the product of the BLM Multi-Agency OHV Project that included forest service and state land areas in the inventory and mapping primitive roads and trails. On the right side of the map is the number of signs that were installed. These are maps of the BLM areas and I can get maps of the forest service areas (Lake Mary and lower Sycamore) that were inventoried. I have two maps showing the entire state with the areas that were mapped in boxes. The entire Arizona Strip area was mapped their access guide came out several years ago and those maps are available. You'll see we've complete most of the west central area that is real popular with the winter visitors: a lot of the Kingman Field Office area (Poachie Mtn & Hualapai Mtn), the Lake Havasu Field Office areas (Black Mtns get 3 maps), Gila Bend Mtns in Lower Sonoran Field Office, Vulture Mountain areas in Hassayampa Field Office, Aravaipa (1st one printed as access guide available to public), Agua Fria NM, Dewey-Humboldt, lower Gila Valley area, Ajo and Organ Pipe NM areas were signed but not inventoried. These maps are available now and can be printed and mailed at a cost of \$10/map. Once the public maps are printed the cost should go down to about \$4. There were two partners involved at the beginning: one has dropped out. RideNow is going to help print loop maps with information on loop opportunities in popular areas. First out will be the Boulders area, then the Hualapai Mtn area. Half way through the process the State Land Department decided they only wanted main connector routes included on any maps, so we stopped inventorying other routes. I lost my map person in November and plan to have another one this summer. So we will start getting the maps out as soon as possible. That's why we are making these maps available at the \$10 cost. We will have these available on the internet although it really takes a large plotter to print a useable size. You should be able to download the information into a GPS device.

Bob Biegel - Will they be scalable, i.e. where you could select a 30 square mile area and highlight that for printing?

Bill Gibson - I know that technology is available, but I would have to see if you can do that online. We can do that for you now if you call the BLM office, Phyllis can do that. Take these maps. I don't want to take any home.

#### **E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC - NONE**

#### **F. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

#### **G. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The group preferred Fridays and wanted the meeting outside of the State Parks Board room. Possibly somewhere it could get some publicity. It was pointed out that the

August 20, 2010 date is one of the state furlough days. Staff will send out a request for dates.

**H. ADJOURNMENT** 5:44 pm